

people of Honduras through the rule of law in defense of their constitutional democracy exercised their means of self-defense, we are told that that is of the utmost interest to the United States and we must demand an outcome in accordance with our will and the will of the OAS, which now includes Mr. Fidel Castro, no fan of elections.

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Can you tell me why the freedom of the Iranian people is to be left in the hands of their murderers and why the freedom of the Honduran people is to be taken from theirs and put in the hands of butchers like Fidel Castro and others such as Chavez? I eagerly await a response, although I do not know that I will find it edifying, let alone satisfactory. I yield back.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank the gentleman. And also coming with us tonight is a person who also has a distinguished and effective record of fighting for human rights and freedom around the globe, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Well, I want to thank you for calling this Special Order, convoking it and focusing in on this very important, really critical subject. Winston Churchill talked about the fact that facts are better than dreams. There are facts with regard to the crisis in Honduras. The people of Honduras acted constitutionally. Their institutions acted constitutionally in removing a President who was acting unconstitutionally, and they removed him. The institutions, the democratic institutions of Honduras removed a President who had been acting unconstitutionally on June 28. Those are facts.

The Obama administration is wrong when, in this case, it sides with Chavez and Castro, Ortega, Correa, the other anti-democratic elements in this hemisphere who are pressuring for the imposition of the President who had violated the Constitution in Honduras for his return, his forceful return, unconstitutionally to power. The Obama administration is wrong. That's a fact.

Now, there's another fact that is of importance, and that is we saw a number of Members of Congress here almost at midnight, because of the importance of this issue, tell the American people that after thorough study, they have come to the conclusion that the Obama administration is wrong and that the Honduran people acted appropriately. It's a fact that there is a growing number of Members of Congress who are becoming involved, educated and are expressing themselves with regard to this issue. That's a fact that the Obama administration needs to take into consideration, because as was mentioned before, even if the situation were different, and even if the Hondurans had acted unconstitutionally in removing President Zelaya from power, the solution to the crisis should

be evident to all: free and fair elections, especially when the candidates were chosen before the crisis began by all of the political parties.

So what is most not only incorrect, but almost inconceivable, Madam Speaker, is that the Obama administration is not only wrong with regard to what happened in Honduras, is not only wrong with regard to whom it is siding with and whom it is siding against, but that even if the administration were not wrong with regard to what has happened, the evident solution being the elections of November 29, are not being supported by the Obama administration, but the Obama administration is saying that they will not recognize the will of the Honduran people as expressed on November 29.

That is inconceivable—beyond wrong. That is inconceivable, Madam Speaker.

So, facts: Congress is aware of how wrong the administration is. Congress is aware that the Honduran people are proceeding with an election on November 29. The reason that the majority leadership is not bringing to the floor of this House a resolution to express support for the elections, the resolution was filed by Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and others, expressing support for the elections that are going to be held November 29, the reason the majority leadership does not bring that resolution to the floor is because it would win a majority vote, because the fact is a growing number of Members of Congress, I maintain by now a majority of this House, are aware of the gross unfairness with which that small nation is being treated by this administration.

So I think it's important for the administration, Madam Speaker, to take note, tonight, almost at midnight, that Honduras, despite the pressure, despite the fact that it's a small country, is moving forward with elections. Those elections deserve not only support and respect, but commendation. And further efforts to deny the Honduran people their right of self-determination, their right to express themselves freely by secret ballot on November 29 is wrong.

That's a fact.

More and more people in this Congress are learning the facts. And I hope, Madam Speaker, that the administration takes note and reverses itself, backs off from not supporting elections, from not supporting free determination and, rather, supports the Honduran people.

I thank you, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, for focusing attention, for your leadership role on this critical issue. Not only do the people of Honduras deserve it, but the hemisphere requires the further attention of the American people to this critical issue. Thank you very much.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for really summing it up so well that, yes, regardless of what may have happened, the solution is there, it's evident. It's the elections that are coming up.

The American people need to understand, need to know that this administration, unfortunately, is siding, siding, is on the side, is siding with Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro in trying to stop the democracy, the democratic process, the elections that are about to take place in Honduras. They need to know that.

This administration needs to understand that history will judge this administration if it does not reverse itself and sides with the people of Honduras, with their election, with their freedom. And also the Honduran people need to understand that we have great admiration for them, that we respect their process, their Constitution, and we commend them for going forward with their elections, their free, democratic, multi-party elections.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and with that, I will yield back the remaining part of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and tomorrow.

Mrs. BIGGERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 4:30 p.m. and for the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 12:30 p.m. and for the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 3:15 p.m. through Monday, October 26, on account of events in the district.

Mr. GOHMERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. WALDEN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POLIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KAGEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WEINER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEAL of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, October 29.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, October 29.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, October 23.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, October 29.